

*Feds fail to include beach replenishment projects*

By NICHOLAS HUBA  
MANAHAWKIN BUREAU  
April 29, 2009

Money to dredge Barnegat Bay has been approved as part of the federally funded stimulus package, but funds for additional beach replenishment projects - such as erosion studies and long-term nourishment efforts - were not included.

The state has received approximately \$2 million in funding for maintenance work across South Jersey and the Shore area.

"During these tough economic times, it is disappointing that these important recovery funds will not be going toward beach replenishment projects, which are critical to our shore communities," said Rep. John Adler, D-N.J. "But I am pleased to see nearly 2 million dollars directed to protect the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway and Barnegat Bay."

Army Corps of Engineers officials have said that not receiving funds from the stimulus package will not impact currently planned projects, such as the pending beach replenishment project in Harvey Cedars.

The projects that will receive funding through the stimulus package include:

\$1.26 million for maintenance dredging of the remaining critical shoal areas within the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway.

\$350,000 for maintenance dredging to protect Barnegat Bay.

\$300,000 will be used to prepare a regional systems-type study for the coast of New Jersey; develop a regional sediment budget and an improved understanding of regional coastal processes; and implement an efficient regional sediment management and monitoring program to reduce long-term nourishment costs.

Adler has been critical of the administration removing the funding for beach replenishment projects from the stimulus package. In late March, Alder sent a letter to Peter Orszag, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, asking him to leave the money.

"On behalf of my constituents in Ocean County, I urge you to maintain funding for beach nourishment projects," Adler stated in the letter to Orszag. "The money included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is necessary to conduct beach erosion studies, build groins and jetties to protect beaches from surf, storm surge and tidal currents, and long-term nourishment efforts like pumping tons of dredged sand back onto eroded beaches."

For link to article, click [here](#) .